Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 GAC-01

OMB-01 T-03 ACDA-19 IO-12 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /127 W

O R 211730 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 936

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL THE HAGUE 1333

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR VN NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY: MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN IN REPLY TO NEWSPAPER REPORTER SAID

MARCH 20 GON WILL SOON DECIDE WHEN TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NVN BUT DID NOT EXPECT NINE TO MAKE JOINT STATEMENT. BENELUX NATIONS, HOWEVER, WOULD ACT TOGETHER. FONMIN SCHMELZER HAS BEEN ASKED BY LABOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DANKERT TO EXPLAIN EC FONMINS' FAILURE TO ACT ON RECOGNITION ISSUE AND ALSO ABOUT COUPLING OF RECOGNITION WITH NVN'S RECORD ON ADHERENCE TO CEASE- FIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING REGULAR SESSION WITH PRESS MARCH 20, MFA SPOKESMAN WAS QUERIED ON EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MARCH 16 DECISION NOT TO MAKE IMMEDIATE ANNOUNCEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF NVN. SPOKESMAN REPLIED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT GON WOULD SOON DECIDE WHEN TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NVN. THESE WOULD BE AT SAME LEVEL AS RELATIONS WITH SVN. SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO FONMIN SCHMELZER'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 21 THAT GON HAD TAKEN DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO RECOGNIZE NVN BUT TIME- FRAME UNCERTAIN AND CONSULTATIONS WITH EC PARTNERS REQUIRED. SPOKESMAN, WHO SAID THESE CONSULTATIONS NOW ALMOST COMPLETED, TOLD PRESS HE DID NOT EXPECT THERE WOULD BE COMMON EC DECLARATION BUT HE EXPECTED BENELUX COUNTRIES WOULD ACT TOGETHER.

3. MFA SPIKESMAN' S REMARKS CAME SAME DAY AS LABOR SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER DANKERT (1971 LEADER GRANTEE) ASKED FONMIN TO EXPLAIN WHY EC MINISTERS HAD NOT DECIDED ON RECOGNITION IN THEIR MARCH 16 MEETING AND WHETHER DECISION DELAYED SINCE CERTAIN NATIONS WISHED TO COUPLE RECOGNITION WITH WAY IN WHICH HANOI OBSERVED CEASE-FIRE. DANKERT ASKED WHETHER GON BELONGED TO THIS GROUP AND ALSO WHETHER

THERE MORE AGREEMENT AMONG BENELUX NATIONS ON RECOGNITION ISSUE THAN AMONG OTHER MEMBERS OF NINE. DANKERT CONCLUDED QUESTION BY CITING MINISTER SCHMELZER'S FEB 2 1 COMMENT THAT WHILE CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER, GON NOT OBLIGED TO LET EC PARTNERS DETERMINE ITS POSITION ON RECOGNITION TIMING.

4. COMMENT: POL COUNS DISCUSSED MFA STATEMENT WITH ROOKMAAKER (DIRECTOR, FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS) MARCH 21. ROOKMAAKER, WHO WAS IN BRUSSELS MARCH 20, WAS NOT AWARE OF SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT NOR OF DANKERT QUESTION. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER, GON UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION. ROOKMAAKER DID NOT ALLUDE TO AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO FONMIN (THE HAGUE 1281) NOR DID HE INDICATE WHETHER MATERIAL RECEIVED OTHER CHANNEL AND SUPPLIED MFA MARCH 20 HAD PERSUADED GON RECOGNITION ANNOUNCEMENT AT PRESENT TIME INOPPORTUNE.

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN BRUSSELS

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